

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Abstract of the disclosure was amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed March 13, 2001 to make it compliant with all current guidelines.

The disclosure has been amended as requested in the Office Action at paragraph 2 except that the errors pointed to in page 11 are actually in page 10, the errors pointed to in page 12 are actually in page 11, and the errors pointed to in page 15 are actually in page 14. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 USC 103(a), as being obvious over Dolle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,821) in view of design choice.

The present application was filed on or after November 29, 1999, and because the cited reference has common inventors with the present application and constitutes prior art only under 35 USC 102(e), the undersigned, attorney of record, states that:

Application 09/804,744 and Patent No. 6,160,821 were, at the time the invention of Application 09/804,744 was made, owned by Sony Corporation. Sony International (Europe) GmbH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Corporation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are patentably distinct over Dolle et al. in view of design choice.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay B. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay B. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/PCF:tb  
encl.